



DATE: April 17, 1978  
TO: M.A. Zamco  
FROM: J.E. Harms *PHC*  
SUBJECT: Trekker Chemical Company Plant Investigation  
ID #099 055 AAG

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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On April 13, 1978, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. the author conducted an investigation of the Trekker Chemical Company near Mendota, Illinois. This facility had been investigated on September 30, 1977, due to citizen complaints about odor and an inquiry by State Representative Betty Hoxsey. In the memorandum of October 12, 1977, it was reported that Trekker was going to install an air purifier to eliminate the odor problem. The purpose of this investigation was to verify that the odor problem had been solved and that no other problems still exist.

One concern was that the chemicals might be photochemically reactive. Mr. Rama Chaturvedi's report of October 27, 1977, stated that the facility would probably be in compliance with Rule 205(f), laying that contention to rest.

Another concern was the toxicity of the chemicals produced at the plant. Rama Chaturvedi's report and Mr. Geoff Langley's report of November 2, 1977, both indicated that the toxicity of the chemicals ranged from a low to a high toxicity rating, depending upon which individual chemical was used. However, Mr. Langley stated that the Illinois EPA essentially has no regulations governing toxicity, and that the problem would fall under the jurisdiction of the USEPA or the Department of Agriculture.

As far as the odor is concerned, while driving by Trekker the author noticed in late October of 1977 that the odor was no longer evident, and that Trekker had apparently installed the air filter that they had mentioned at the October 12 investigation. The author called one of the complainants and she verified the fact that the obnoxious odors no longer existed.

On April 13, 1978, the author took a tour of the Trekker facilities with the aid of the plant manager, Mr. Ken Carbaugh. The air filter was essentially installed and working. Trekker did need to add about 16 more feet of pipe to extend the present stack. There was a slight odor on the plant premises, but that seemed to be due to the chemicals that were stored in barrels, as opposed to the main source of odor, the actual mixing process. Once a person got away from the plant premises, he could not detect an odor.

#### Conclusions:

1. The Trekker is most probably not in violation of Rule 205(f).
2. The toxicity levels are controlled by the USEPA or the Department of Agriculture.
3. The odors seemed to have subsided by the end of October of 1977.

4. The air purifier has been installed and is working.
5. There are no odors essentially off the plant premises.

Recommendations:

1. Trekker is in compliance and this case should be closed.

JH/cm